

The Region 6 Vision is that all persons, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture or income, are protected from unacceptable levels of environmental pollution and hazards and are given the opportunity to meaningfully participate in environmental decisions and processes that may affect their health or community. Environmental Justice is a principle that permeates all that we do in Region 6.

EPA Region 6 Environmental Justice FY2017 Report

**EPA REGION 6
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
FY2017 REPORT**

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ARKANSAS

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs

ADEQ Call: Environmental Justice in Permitting: Staff from 6MM, 6WQ and OEJTIA conducted a conference call with staff from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) on environmental justice in permitting on January 5, 2017. The purpose of the call was to discuss ADEQ efforts to integrate EJ into its permitting processes. Region 6 staff provided information on how EJ considerations are included in their permit processes and shared reference documents from EPA and R6. EPA includes permitting as a priority area in its EJ 2020 Action Agenda, the agency's strategic plan for EJ for 2016-2020. One of EJ 2020's strategies is collaboration with state co-regulatory partners to share and promote the use of tools, best practices, and approaches. Contacts: Arturo Blanco, 214-665-3183; and Tressa Tillman, 214-665-2261.

College/Underserved Community Partnership Program (CUPP) and Arkansas: Members of the CUPP team established a partnership between the City of Huntsville, AR and the University of Arkansas Fay Jones School of Architecture. A group of 12 senior architecture and interior design students created 3D models, rendered photos of different views, and created floor plans for a county museum and community building project. Through CUPP, the students gained practical experience while earning course credit, and the city received technical assistance that it would not have been able to afford otherwise. CUPP provides a creative approach to partnering and delivering free technical assistance to small, underserved communities from local colleges and universities. Exploring programs that support communities is one of the key activities of the Arkansas Environmental Justice Collaborative Action Plan. Contact: Tressa Tillman, 214-665-2261.

Enforcement Division

Pine Bluff Demolition Project, Pine Bluff, Arkansas: On April 21, 2017, Region 6 issued letters to the City of Pine Bluff, Arkansas and the Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) concluding Notices of Noncompliance to the City and ACC for apparent violations of the asbestos Worker Protection Rule. Region 6 issued the Notices of Noncompliance in May 2016 immediately following an inspection by EPA and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) that revealed apparent violations of the asbestos National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) and the Worker Protection Rule. Upon receipt of the Notices, the City and ACC stopped all work on the project. ADEQ is authorized to administer the asbestos NESHAP and in January 2017, ADEQ issued an Administrative Order on Consent to the

City citing the May 2016 inspection and requiring compliance with the asbestos NESHAP. In consideration of the actions taken by the City and ACC as well as ADEQ's order, the Region concluded the Notices of Noncompliance. Contact: Mark Potts, 214-665-2723; and Mike Barra, 214-665-2143.

Initiation of Hydrogen Sulfide Community Monitoring in Crossett, Arkansas: On January 11-13, 2017, staff from EPA Region 6 Air Enforcement and staff from Environmental Research Group (ERG) installed twenty passive monitors in and around the Georgia-Pacific paper facility to evaluate the sources and offsite impacts of hydrogen sulfide in the community of Crossett. Members of the Crossett community have long asserted that they are experiencing impacts from hydrogen sulfide generated by the Georgia Pacific pulp and paper facility in Crossett. Contacts: Sarah Frey, 214-665-6499; and James Haynes, 214-665-8546.

FY2017 Mid-Year Enforcement Results: As of March 31, 2017, EPA has issued 3 Administrative Compliance Orders, and 3 Final Penalty Orders in Arkansas, resulting in \$840,000 in penalties. Approximately 33 percent of these enforcement conclusions were located in vulnerable communities. Contact: Connie Overbay, 214-665-7274.

Sloan Valve, Augusta, Arkansas: In FY2017, first quarter, EPA Region 6 issued a Consent Agreement Final Order to Sloan Valve to resolve RCRA violations at its Augusta, Arkansas brass foundry. Sloan Valve will pay an administrative penalty of \$630,000; enter into an agreement with the State of Arkansas for the remediation of releases at its foundry; adhere to and certify to compliance with all protective measures required by its solid waste disposal permit; cease the use of non-conforming containers for the accumulation and storage of hazardous waste; and refrain from all land disposal of wastes that fail to meet the applicable treatment standards. Contact: Connie Overbay, 214-665-7274.

Multimedia Division

(Please include updates or respond with, "No updates.")

Superfund Division

North Little Rock Salvage Yard: All Superfund removal activities at the North Little Rock Salvage Yard site, North Little Rock, AR, were completed the week of December 12, 2016. The responsible party (W.R. Grace) completed excavation of all asbestos-contaminated soils, as well as backfill operations on December 15, 2016. All indoor asbestos-dust abatement work and post-abatement sampling was completed on the same day. The final volume of contaminated soil excavated was approximately 44,000

tons. All contractors, including EPA's contractor, demobilized from the site on Saturday, December 17, 2016. Contact: Chris Villarreal, 214-665-6758.

Mid-South Wood Products and Kennametal, Incorporated: Where appropriate, 6SF will continue to assess, clean up, and promote the reuse of contaminated land and will respond to environmental emergencies, oil spills, and natural disasters. 6SF will continue to support the safety and well-being of Arkansas communities through its various programs that respond to land contamination. Examples of recent activities include the following:

- On March 7, 2017, EPA and ADEQ conducted a site inspection at the Mid-South Wood Products site in Mena, AR, as part of the site's Five-Year Review.
- On March 14, 2017, the Superfund Site Assessment staff accompanied ADEQ personnel to conduct sampling at the Kennametal, Incorporated site in Pineville, AR. The site manufactured industrial grade metal cutting tools. Site sampling will determine if the site will require further assessment. Contact: Chris Villarreal, 214-665-6758.

Brownfields and Arkansas: EPA's Brownfields program continues to work with communities and ADEQ on property assessment. Recent activities include a February visioning session in Huntsville, AR. West Arkansas Planning and Development District has hired their contractor to begin assessment utilizing their assessment grant which was awarded in October 2016. Kansas State University (KSU, Brownfields Technical Assistance) and EPA continues working with Hot Springs on planning a visioning session for the old Majestic Hotel site. EPA is also working with ADEQ and KSU on planning upcoming workshops. Contact: Mary Kemp, 214-665-8358

Water Quality Division

Water Quality Assistance: 6WQ awarded grants to assist the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) in administering the state's water programs.

- Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) award in the amount of \$541,124
- Underground Injection Control (UIC) award in the amount of \$60,384, and
- Water pollution prevention (water quality and ground water) award in the amount of \$651,709. Contact: Gregory Parrish, 214-665-6586.

Georgia-Pacific LLC – Crossett NPDES Permit: 6WQ met with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) on March 30, 2017 regarding the revised preliminary draft permit to review for Georgia Pacific - Crossett Paper Operation from ADEQ. The permit has been reviewed by the Water Division, the Compliance, Assurance and Enforcement Division-Water Branch, and Regional Counsel. EPA will

discuss major concerns and possible remedies to resolve issues. Contact Stacey Dwyer, 214-665-6729.

DRAFT

LOUISIANA

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs

Making a Visible Difference - Alexandria/Pineville: EPA in partnership with the Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health hosted a one day Healthy Homes Workshop in Alexandria, LA as part of the Making a Visible Difference in Communities Initiative. The training led participants to an understanding of the connection between housing and health and how to take a holistic approach to identify and resolve problems that threaten the health and well-being of residents, especially children. The curriculum identified root causes of health problems that are influenced by the indoor environment and focused on the seven key elements of a healthy home: keep it dry, clean, pest-free, ventilated, safe, contaminant-free and maintained. In addition, a brief focus on cancer-causing agents and potential exposures in the home was presented. Attendees were from various organizations including community members, Louisiana House Representative Jeff Hall, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Deputy Secretary Denise Bennett, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Wilma Subra, Louisiana Department of Health, Dr. David Holcombe, and the LSU AgCenter. Contact: Charlotte Runnels, 214-665-6442.

Deep South Center for Environmental Justice: On January 24, 2017, EPA staff from 6SF, 6RC and OEJTIA participated on a conference call with Dr. Beverly Wright regarding the Agricultural Street Landfill in New Orleans, LA. She was provided informational documents and EPA answered questions regarding the status of the site. In addition, she referenced and provided EPA with a copy of environmental research by Dr. Bernard Singleton on the Deep Water Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Contact: Charlotte Runnels, 214-665-6442.

LDEQ Call: Shell/IMTT Discussion: Staff from 6EN, 6SF and OEJTIA conducted a conference call with staff from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) on March 9, 2017. The purpose of the call was to discuss EPA and LDEQ's activities surrounding Shell/IMTT and the St. Rose Community One Voice organization. EPA provided information on a previous commitment to do additional sampling and LDEQ provided input on their complaint procedures. As a result of the call, EPA will draft a letter with input from LDEQ updating the community on activities and next steps. Contact: Charlotte Runnels, 214-665-6442.

New Orleans Port and Near Port Community Capacity Building Pilot Project: On April 12-13, 2017, EPA Region 6 staff participated in a Needs Assessment Site Visit Kick-off meeting for the New Orleans Near Port Community Capacity Building Project in New Orleans, LA. The Port of New Orleans, the Lower Ninth Ward - Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development (CSED) and the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ) piloted organizations were formally introduced to the

Port and Near Port Pilot Project and the three capacity building tools. The Port led a Waterside Tour which helped participants better understand port operations and CSED led a community tour that helped participants better understand community needs and concerns. A Community Needs Assessment meeting and a Port Needs Assessment meeting resulted in clear identification of priority community needs and clear identification of port needs. To launch the Needs Assessment a joint meeting was held to recap, prioritize, and identify themes and near-term opportunities to use to inform the Capacity Building Plan. Next meeting is tentatively targeted for June 2017. Contacts: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535; and Charlotte Runnels, 214-665-6442.

Enforcement Division

Meeting with Denka Performance Elastomer LLC (Denka) and Former Facility Owner E.I Du Pont de Nemours and Company (DuPont): Denka Performance Elastomer, LLC owns a chloroprene and neoprene production facility in LaPlace Louisiana, which emits hazardous air pollutants. In June 2016, NEIC conducted a focused CAA inspection of the facility. Following the inspection, Region 6 partnered with the State to achieve chloroprene reductions thorough a State issued Administrative Order on Consent. On May 5th, 2017, Region 6 Staff and Management, Technical Staff from OECA, Inspectors from NEIC (by video teleconference), Attorneys from DOJ, and Staff and Management from LDEQ will participate in a meeting with representatives of Denka and DuPont at the law offices of Denka's legal counsel in New Orleans. The meeting will include a summary presentation and discussion of the NEIC claims that resulted from a June 2016 CAA inspection. Contacts: James Leathers, 214-665-6569; and Justin Lannen, 214-665-8130.

Multimedia Division

Healthy Homes Training, Alexandria, LA: A Healthy Homes training was co-sponsored by EPA and the Southwest Center for Pediatric Environmental Health (PEHSU) on October 21, 2016 and attended by 20 people in the community. Contact: Paula Selzer, 214-665-6663.

Lead-based Paint Program: The Lead-based Paint Program contacted the New Orleans Department of Safety and Permits about adding a Lead Paint Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule requirement to a new program the city is working on called the Rental Registry Program. The intent of the Rental Registry Program is to improve the condition of rental housing in the city. Contact: Mikeal Adams, 214-665-6711.

Governor's Housing Heroes Initiative: Governor Edward of Louisiana publically announced the kick-off to the Housing Heroes initiative on Tuesday, March 21st, during a special press conference with local landlords, property owners, managers, federal,

state and local partners. EPA will provide technical expertise in the arena of Indoor Environmental Hazards. Currently FEMA and HUD have secured 400 homeowners and landlords have agreed to provide housing for displaced families. Contact: Mark Berry, 214-665-3183.

Superfund Division

Colfax Treating Co., Pineville, Rapides Parish, LA: EPA Region 6 has received the final validated sample results from the September 17, 2016 interior sampling event at the Rapides Parish School District, J.S. Slocum Campus (Rapides Training Academy) in Pineville, Louisiana. Wipes samples were collected from nonporous surfaces that students and staff at the school were likely to come into contact with during the course of the school day and were analyzed for semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) including the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and pentachlorophenol (PCP), and for polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans (dioxins). Results from the SVOC analysis reported no detections. Detection levels for all SVOCs (including PAHs) were sufficient to evaluate the potential risk to human health. Results from the dioxin analysis are being interpreted. Contacts: Ronnie Crossland, 214-665-2721; and Ben Banipal, 214-665-7324.

Water Quality Division

Louisiana Flooding Recovery: FEMA Community Planning and Capacity Building (CPCB) request for building block technical assistance for cities. FEMA CPCB requested EPA Building Block technical assistance for communities in East Baton Rouge Parish, as targeted tools. This request is on behalf of the State of Louisiana's Office of Community Development (referred to as OCD) and the Capital Regional Planning Commission. The two proposed applicable tools are: Sustainable Strategies for Small Cities and Rural Areas and the Flood Resilience for Riverine and Coastal Communities with an interest in the Governor's institute on community design, another EPA Office of Sustainable Communities tool. FEMA CPCB is seeking its leadership support to add dollars to the Mission Assignment. The request for EPA Building Blocks technical assistance would provide targeted assistance using a variety of tools with demonstrated widespread application. Nearly 40 percent of East Baton Rouge Parish was directly impacted by the storms between August 7 and August 15, 2016, with 67,018 FEMA Individual Assistance applications. This includes incorporated areas of Baker, Central, and Zachary. The FEMA verified total loss to real and personal property alone is over 660 million dollars. Contact: Joyce Stubblefield, 214-665-6640.

St. Joseph, Louisiana Drinking Water System: EPA Region 6 Assistance Programs Branch, Source Water Protection and Enforcement staff participated on a conference call with Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to discuss the implementation of the drinking water system, treatment plant and water well repair and rehabilitation for St. Joseph, Louisiana. LDH provided an updated schedule of implementation with projected overall project completion by June 2018 and mentioned that the \$8 million allocated in a number of funding state sources is estimated to be sufficient to implement the three project components. Procurement of the waterline system repair is currently underway and is expected to complete construction of that component by March 2018. Rehabilitation of the drinking water treatment plant is scheduled to initiate procurement of contracts in March 2017 with construction completion in June 2018. Construction on two new water wells is scheduled to start in July 2017 with completion in March 2018. Contacts: Claudia Hosch, 214-665-6464; Maurice Rawls, 214-665-8049; Barbara Schrodt, 214-665-7138; Salvador Gandara, 214-665-3194.

NEW MEXICO

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs

MS4 Cooperative Meeting, Anthony, NM: On January 10, 2017, the City of Anthony, City of Sunland Park, Doña Ana County, and the New Mexico Department of Transportation District 1, all participated in a status meeting of the entities in the Dona Ana Basin urbanized areas. Discussion surrounded the draft agreement to form the “Dona Ana Stormwater MS4 Advisory Group”. The advisory group will be strictly advisory in nature to exchange ideas regarding compliance efforts. The group expressed their concern over the lack of participation by the City of Mesilla. Debra Tellez participated in the meeting and offered to reach out to the City of Mesilla. Discussions with the City of Mesilla’s Public Works Director clarified their misunderstandings of the meetings and indicated their willingness to join the group and attend future meetings. Contact: Debra Tellez, 915-533-7273.

Linking Land Use & Water Quality Technical Assistance: Kick off call, March 15, 2017, was followed by a series of calls led by Renaissance Planning Group with the City of Anthony staff and their Engineering contractor to reconfirm the goals for the onsite workshop and identify the core planning group. Participants included OSC, NMED, and Susanna Perea, R6 SF. Based on the city’s self-assessment, it was determined that a Green and Complete Streets module would be a better approach focusing on Church Street. The 1.5-day workshop was scheduled for June 19 – 20, 2017. Invited stakeholders included City of Anthony Mayor and Board of Trustees, Dona Ana County Flood commission, Rio Grande Council of Governments, South Central Council of Governments, NMED Surface Water Bureau, Anthony Chamber of Commerce, local non-profits and the Dept. of Transportation. Contact: Debra Tellez, 915-533-7273.

NM Department of Border Health Breakfast Meeting: On May 3, 2017, in Las Cruces, NM, presenters included Kari Bachman from Dona Ana Communities United, and Randee Greenwald from NMSU School of Nursing who collaborated on a project on Social Equity Mapping. Community Health Nurses are working on mapping heat islands in Las Cruces with a particular interest in the homeless community at Camp Hope where the inside of their tents exceed a hundred degrees. Dona Ana County Community Development and DOT are funding a project for a multi-use trail in Chaparral, NM and the nurses are engaging with the residents for their input to the design of the trail. The project is expected to be complete in December 2017. Attendees included Dona Ana staff, NMSU faculty and students, NM/TX/CH Health Task Force Co-leader, Burrell Institute staff. Contact: Debra Tellez, 915-533-7273.

Smart Growth Planning Assistance Site Visit Prep Call: On May 4, 2017, the Core planning team met to finalize the Site Visit and tour. The agenda was tweaked, stakeholder list revisited, and logistics ironed out. The day long site visit will include

looking at connectivity and green infrastructure issues as we walk through the historic main street, gateway, parks and open space and Anthony Town Center with the City of Anthony Mayor and board of trustees. The group will meet with local stakeholders to include property owners, neighborhood associations, faith based groups, and Doña Ana County staff. The day long visit will conclude with the creation of an agenda addressing the desired outcomes of the charrette workshop scheduled for July 12-14, 2017. Participants included Susanna Perea, R6SF, John Foster, EPA OSC, Rio Grande COG, City of Anthony Project Coordinator, and Place Matters contractor staff. Contact: Debra Telle, 915-533-7273.

Enforcement Division

Meeting with New Mexico Environment Department: On April 18, 2017, Region 6 Water Enforcement, Carol Peters-Wagnon, David Esparza, and Amy Andrews, met with the Surface Water Bureau staff at NMED. Topics included the role of EPA Regional inspectors in Albuquerque, changes in Regional Water Enforcement Branch, coordination between Regional inspectors and NMED water inspectors, and information about specific facilities. A good discussion on how both organizations can work together and help enhance compliance in the State of New Mexico water program occurred. Contact: Carol Peters-Wagnon, 214-665-3145.

Multimedia Division

Tribal Pesticide Training, Pojoaque, NM: The New Mexico Department of Agriculture conducted a pesticides training for tribal communities in Pojoaque, New Mexico. The training included basic safety, laws, calibration, proper use, and other topics. The training took place on February 21-22, 2017, with presentations, handouts, calibration buckets and other safety equipment items to take home for 40 participants. Region 6 Pesticide Program staff worked with NMDA and ENIPC to set up this training. Contact: Elizabeth Reyes, 214-665-3163.

Superfund Division

(Summary Suggested: New Mexico Abandoned Uranium Mines)

Water Quality Division

Approval of Pueblo of Laguna's TAS Application: On December 20, 2016, EPA approved the Pueblo of Laguna's application for treatment in similar manner as a state (TAS) under §518 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for purposes of administering the

CWA §303(c) water quality standards and §401 certification programs. As part of its review, EPA requested comments from other governmental entities and the public on the Tribe's authority to regulate water quality on tribal lands. EPA received comments supportive of approval of the TAS application from the New Mexico Environment Department, the National Park Service, the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, and the Pueblo of Isleta. Contact: Diane Evans, 214-665-6677.

DRAFT

OKLAHOMA

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs

Disaster Response and Recovery: OEJTIA and SF conducted a conference call with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), and local community representatives on disaster response and recovery activities in Oklahoma. The purpose of the call was to identify federal and state agencies, and other nongovernmental organizations that have responsibility for administration of Disaster Response and Recovery programs as it relates to potential impacts to the environment and human health. OEJTIA is also working with federal, state, and local agencies to provide information on disaster assistance available to communities. Contact: Omari Burrell, 214-665-3162.

Enforcement Division

(Please include updates or respond with, “No updates.”)

Multimedia Division

(Please include updates or respond with, “No updates.”)

Superfund Division

Quapaw Tribe: EPA discussed accelerated expenditures on Distal 13 with the Quapaw Tribe. The Tribe presented a justification and were informed that the EPA would request additional funding for them at the beginning of FY17. Other measures were discussed to achieve smoother communications between the Tribe and EPA, especially concerning funding and work activities. The Project Officer is developing a new reporting format for the Quapaw Tribe to use which will assist EPA in determining if the Tribe is working at an accelerated rate within the current work plan, and if additional funding will be requested long before the actual need for funding arises. Contact: Anthony Talton, 214-665-7205.

Wilcox Oil Company Superfund Site: The EPA conducted remedial investigation activities during the weeks of October 17 – 31, 2016. The field team cleared areas for the surface and subsurface soil investigation targeting the Lorraine Process Area and portions of the East Tank Farm and the Wilcox Process Area. In addition, an EPA sample team collected surface water samples within Sand creek targeting areas of suspected seepage. On April 13, 2017, the EPA and Oklahoma Department of

Environmental Quality (ODEQ) hosted a meeting with the tribal and trustee groups in Bristow, OK and an open house on April 13, 2017. The purpose of these meetings was to provide an update on the work completed at the site, current data results, ongoing activities, and future planned activities. The participants included Cherokee Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Sac and Fox Nation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, IHS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, community members, and Oklahoma. In addition, EPA and ODEQ continued subsurface soil remedial investigation activities with Field Event 4 at the site located in Bristow, Oklahoma. Work under this field event was completed April 28, 2017, one week earlier than initially planned. Contact: John Meyer, 214-665-6742.

Tar Creek Superfund Site: On March 15, 2017, EPA staff met with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) and the Quapaw Tribe Environmental Office to discuss the status of current and ongoing remedial actions at Operable Unit (OU) 4 and activities at OUs 2 and 5. Another meeting was held on March 16, 2017, concerning soil amendment thresholds, from the Catholic 40 bench-scale study, and the Integrated Exposure Uptake Biokinetic (IEUBK) Model for Lead in Children. The influence of bioavailability on preliminary remediation goals (PRGs) for cadmium, lead and zinc for transition zone soils need to be established by EPA, ODEQ and the Quapaw Tribe for the cleanup process to move forward at Distal 13. The ODEQ and the Quapaw Tribe have an integral role in the cleanup of the Tar Creek site. On April 26, 2017, the EPA's Remedial Project Managers and Superfund Managers met with the Managers representing the ODEQ and the Quapaw Tribe Environmental Office to plan the remedial actions for all operable units for the next four years, including options to address contaminated topsoil (i.e., excavation versus other remedial options). This meeting was conducted at ODEQ's offices in Oklahoma City, OK. On May 8, 2017, EPA met with the contractor to discuss and plan the site field sampling schedule and logistics. Field sampling activities will include the collection of plants, clams, and small game to support the completion of a human health risk assessment, and is expected to begin in June 2017. Support is expected to be provided by Region 6, Region 7, ODEQ, and all tribes such that field time and effort are shared. Contacts: John Meyer, 214-665-6742; and Ben Banipal, 214-665-7324.

Water Quality Division

EPA approves Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma Treatment-as-a-State (TAS) for the Clean Water Act (CWA) 106 Program: On September 29, 2016, the Assistance Program Branch, working in conjunction with Ecosystems Protection Branch and Regional Counsel approved the Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma Treatment As-A-State (TAS) application for Clean Water Act (CWA) 106 Program. This approval allows the Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma to apply for CWA 106 funds in FY 2017 to implement a water quality monitoring program necessary to protect tribal waters. Contact: Sam Reynolds, 214-665-6662.

EPA Region 6 Nonpoint Source Program Accepts Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Nonpoint Source Management Plan for 319(H) Funding: On October 7, 2016, staff from the Watershed Management (6WQ-EW) section accepted Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma's Assessment Report and Management Plan for 319(h) funding eligibility. Both the report and plan provide a greater focus and understanding of the major sources of nonpoint source pollution affecting surface waters in the Absentee Shawnee tribal jurisdiction. The compiled information also will help to provide for a more comprehensive watershed plan in the future. Contact: Caitlain Thompson, 214-665-2262.

EPA Approves Oklahoma Water Quality Standards: EPA approved Oklahoma's 2015-2016 Water Quality Standards Triennial Submission on February 27, 2017. The revised water quality standards include a new anti-degradation classification for Sensitive Water Supply-Reuse. This classification could allow discharges of reclaimed municipal water into certain reservoirs for the purpose of indirect potable reuse. In addition, the amendments included updates to waters protected under the Appendix B antidegradation classification which include National and State Parks, forests, wilderness areas, wildlife management areas and wildlife refuges and may include federally listed threatened and endangered species. Other amendments include updates to Appendix G aquatic life criteria to fully protect the Fish and Wildlife Propagation beneficial use and to be consistent with criteria currently recommended by the EPA under CWA § 304(a). Amendments to Appendix E revised the site-specific criteria options for certain dischargers in order to reflect the statewide aquatic life criteria revisions made in Appendix G. These include the adoption of revised criteria for Arsenic III, Chromium III, Chromium VI, Nickel, Cadmium, Zinc, Endrin, Pentachlorophenol, Dieldrin, and Lindane to the EPA CWA §304(a) recommended criteria values. The amendments also include updates to Appendix A waterbody information, uses, which include some nonsubstantive and substantive corrections to errors and oversights and antidegradation classifications. Contact: Russell Nelson, 214-665-6646.

TEXAS

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs

Donna Canal Public Commenting Training: The Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation and the Office of Environmental Justice collaborated with R6 to bring the EPA Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Training on Making Effective Public Comments on the Proposed Plan for the Donna Canal Superfund Site. The training took place on October 19, 2016 in Alamo, Texas. The training included 1) Introductions and overview of EPA's TASC program, 2) Superfund program overview and the public comment process, 3) Overview of the Donna Canal site and feasibility study, and 4) How to make effective public comments on the proposed plan. Representatives from the City of Donna, Hidalgo County, TCEQ, and Texas Secretary of State were also present. Contacts: Paula Flores-Gregg, 214-665-8123; and Rafael Casanova, 214-665-7437.

Texas A&M University – Texas Target Communities: OEJTIA staff met with the Texas Target Communities (TTC) program director and coordinators to discuss infrastructure needs in environmental justice communities throughout Texas. For years, the TTC program housed in the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University, has provided technical assistance on land use planning and design to small, lower-resourced communities across the state. Since June 2013, the program has transitioned from short-term, independent projects to more long-term, integrated efforts addressing the full spectrum of challenges (i.e. civic, environmental, economic, etc.) encountered by communities today. Program coordinators have been working with EJ groups in Houston and have offered infrastructure design services to a community that still lacks drinking water or waste water services. OEJTIA has invited TCEQ, TX SOS, Texas Rural Water, and Communities Unlimited to help guide the efforts to areas where communities can actually use the design as leverage for funding of the infrastructure. Contact: Paula Flores-Gregg, 214-665-8123.

Wastewater Lagoon Replacement - Near Alamo, TX: A \$1 million low interest loan from the Texas Water Development Board will put the City of Alamo one step closer to replacing an old open lagoon sewer treatment plant for a mechanical plant. This loan will help pay for the planning and design of the plant and an application for a construction loan will follow. The 60-year-old lagoon has not been functioning properly and created a continuous stench that contributed to respiratory illnesses and prevented people from being outdoors for extended periods. For years, residents of south Alamo petitioned the city for help, but other budget priorities prevailed. The community reached out to OEJTIA and TCEQ, and EPA provided guidance and worked with the city to identify options and funding mechanisms. Community leaders also brought attention to the issue through TV interviews, rallies and visits to City Hall. Contact: Paula Flores-Gregg, 214 665-8123.

Sandbranch: On March 6, 2017, OEJTIA staff met with Dr. Carol Francois, communication and strategic planner for the Sandbranch community. The purpose of the meeting was to compare notes on the priorities previously identified, report on progress with the USDA-RD loan/grant, and begin a dialogue on possible strategies to address the illegal dumping issues. The USDA-RD grant/loan request for 75% of the construction cost is in progress – with no forecast on the approval as of yet. In relation to the waste issue, OEJTIA reached out to TCEQ and Mr. Michael Grace, Dallas County's newly established Director for Unincorporated Area Services, and hosted an introductory meeting to share information about the environmental challenges in unincorporated areas. Contact: Paula Flores-Gregg, (214) 665-8123.

Houston Village Green Station: Region 6 is challenged by the ongoing need to provide air quality information for environmental justice (EJ) communities. In response to this need, EPA Region 6, in partnership with ORD, reached a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with The City of Houston and The John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science ([The Health Museum](http://www.healthmuseum.org)) in Houston, TX to test new air pollution monitoring technologies that are designed for research and educational outreach purposes. The project enhances transparency and showcases next-generation air measurement technology by providing quality-assured data to the public in near real-time through the AirNow web interface (www.airnow.gov/villagegreen). The data collection platform is the Village Green (VG) station (www.epa.gov/villagegreen). Under the terms of the MOU, The City of Houston and The Health Museum operates the Village Green station onsite at The Health Museum. Contact: Omari Burrell, 214-665-3162.

Bridging Gaps - Drinking Water Safety in Schools: EPA Region 6 will be reaching out to public and charter schools operating in the state of Texas to educate them regarding the benefits of testing. We will encourage them to take action using EPA's *3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities* outreach material. Non-regulatory in nature, this initiative calls for schools to launch their own proactive campaigns of education, prevention, testing and remediation to minimize the threat of lead exposure from drinking water and to help ensure the safety of both the children and adults that use their facilities. In April 2017, the team secured \$24,800 from the Children's Health program to help fund this effort. The team continues to iron out the draft proposal to make sure it is inclusive and responsive to those most at risk. Contacts: Paula Flores-Gregg, 214-665-8123

Enforcement Division

Safe Drinking Water Collaboration: More Texans are drinking cleaner water through efforts by the EPA Region 6 and TCEQ. Six (6) Administrative Orders being recently closed after small water systems successfully took steps to correct arsenic, nitrates and radionuclides maximum contaminant level violations at their water systems. After investing over \$3,500,000 in infrastructure, the citizens are now drinking water in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Approximately 2,000 citizens from the communities of Eastland County Community water system, Valley Acres Mobile Home Park, Tanglewood Subdivision, City of Liverpool, City of Weinert, and North San Saba, were impacted by these actions. Four (4) Administrative Orders were recently closed after small water systems have successfully taken steps to correct arsenic, and fluoride maximum contaminant level violations at their water systems. After investing over \$1,400,000 in infrastructure, the citizens are now drinking water in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Approximately 795 citizens from the communities of Lake Livingston water systems: Bass Bay Indian Hill 1, Forest Hills, Green Acres, and Chaparral III, were impacted by these actions. This is part of a larger, collaborative effort over the last five years involving over 200 enforcement actions to address smaller communities within Texas. These actions are part of the region's work-sharing effort with TCEQ to address source water drinking water issues. Contacts: Mehdi Taheri, 214-665-2298.

City of Presidio, Texas, Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC)

Drinking Water Construction Project: The City of Presidio, Texas, (City) has been selected to receive funding under the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund for the construction of improvements to the City's existing drinking water system. The City has adequate drinking water storage capacity, but has major problems with unaccounted water which was revealed in an engineering report completed in 2014. The City will address issues connected with minimizing water losses, and will extend its drinking water system into portions of a local colonia known as Las Palmas. The improvements will increase water pressure throughout the City, as well as provide first ever water distribution services for portions of Las Palmas. The project was recommended for funding by the BECC, and is required to be in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The project is under active NEPA review which should be finalized later this week. Subsequently, the appropriate NEPA decision documents recommending the appropriate environmental decision will be forwarded for publication soon thereafter. Contact: Don Walker, 214-665-6769.

Multimedia Division

(Please include updates or respond with, "No updates.")

Superfund Division

Donna Reservoir and Canal Superfund Site: On October 17, 2016, the Remedial Project Manager (RPM) met with the irrigation district, the owner of the Site, to discuss the status of the Proposed Plan for the Site. On October 18, 2016, the RPM provided presentations, concerning the Donna Site, to the University of Texas (Harlingen, TX) medical students and to the Texas A&M University Health Sciences Center (McAllen, TX) students. On February 13, 2017, the EPA met with the representatives of the Donna Irrigation District. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss agenda items that included remedial options for the Siphon, the suspected source of contamination, and other technical/enforcement issues. The representatives stated that they were planning to meet with the District on February 21, 2017, and recommend direct sampling of the siphon construction materials. The EPA stated that a sampling plan should be developed for the EPA's review, and that the EPA would take split samples. Also discussed were issues regarding access agreements that are needed to conduct the fish removal action. Additional review of property documents was needed to resolve this issue. Access information relating to the right-of-way along the canal, as well as easement rights owned by the Donna Irrigation District (DID), was provided to the EPA during the week of April 24, 2017. DID is granting the EPA access to the Donna Reservoir, as well as about one-half of the canal in order to complete another fish depopulation removal action. Currently, the removal is scheduled for the last week of May 2017. A community meeting is also planned in advance of the removal. Contacts: John Meyer, 214-665-6742; Ronnie Crossland, 214-665-2721; and Ben Banipal, 214-665-7324.

Houston Ship Channel - Chemical Emergency Preparedness Meeting: On January 12, 2017, EPA facilitated a meeting attended by various stakeholders for Chemical Emergency Preparedness in the Houston Ship Channel area. Attendees included representatives of various preparedness and response agencies from municipalities neighboring the Houston Ship Channel, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality representatives, representatives from industry organizations, and community organizations representing fence line communities in the Houston Ship Channel area. The group discussed how preparedness and response agencies could improve notification of fence line communities when releases occur from facilities near the Houston Ship Channel. Contacts: Ronnie Crossland, 214-665-2721; and Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Water Quality Division

(Please include updates or respond with, "No updates.")

REGION WIDE ACTIVITIES

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs

Environmental Justice (EJ) Collaborative Action Plans: OEJTIA is coordinating the updates of the Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas EJ Collaborative Action Plans with community stakeholders, State partners, and Region 6 program staff. Updates that support the plan's key activities are requested on a semi-annual basis. The action plans identify focus areas and key activities to be conducted over a two-year period to address environmental concerns. They are part of the overall Region 6 EJ Strategy of working with partners to expand EPA's positive impact within overburdened communities. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Environmental Justice (EJ) Calls with Community Representatives: EJ Liaisons are holding conference calls with key community representatives for their assigned state. OEJTIA hosts quarterly conference calls for all five states key community representatives. The agendas for these meetings include updates on the EJ Collaborative Action Plans, EJ Screen, and upcoming national and regional activities. The goal of the calls is to engage stakeholders, share information, engage in meaningful discussions, and work collaboratively to address environmental issues. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

NEPA - EJ and Tribal Reviews: OEJTIA is conducting Environmental Justice and Tribal reviews of NEPA projects to document potential impacts of federally funded or permitted construction projects. As of June FY2017, OEJTIA has received, analyzed and provided EJ and Tribal comments on over 70 Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), and environmental letters/requests. These projects if constructed could affect over 120 communities, 5 Tribes in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arkansas. Contact: Agatha Benjamin, 214-665-7292.

EJSCREEN Regional Training: On April 6, 2017, OEJTIA provided a 3-hour in-person comprehensive training session on the use of the EJSCREEN tool. The training was conducted by EPA's Headquarters, Director of Office of Environmental Justice, Matthew Tejada. The training consisted of an overview of EJSCREEN and discussions on the integration of EJSCREEN, NEPA and Enforcement. Case studies were included for Superfund sites, NPDES, RCRA and Air. The training was attended by 46 regional staff. Contacts: Agatha Benjamin, (214) 665-7292; and Gloria Vaughn, (214) 665-7535.

FY2017 Environmental Justice Small Grants: OEJTIA is coordinating activities for EPA's FY2017 EJ Small Grants program. Region 6 received a total of 18 proposals, with 17 making it successfully through threshold review. The regional review panel evaluated proposals March 2 – March 29, 2017. EJ Small Grants provide funding to help communities better understand environmental and public health issues and to identify ways to address these issues at the local level. The grants also support EPA, Strategic Plan Goal 3, "Cleaning up Communities and Advancing Sustainable

Development” and EPA’s Cross Agency Strategy, “Working to Make a Visible Difference in Communities.” EPA plans to award four grants per region at up to \$30,000 each. Contact: Tressa Tillman, 214-665-2261.

Enforcement Division

(Please include updates or respond with, “No updates.”)

Multimedia Division

Indoor Air Quality: R6 Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Coordinator conducted 9 outreach events and managed 3 asthma related grants with a focus on asthma and building science. These events and grants reached 2425 children and elderly and their caregivers, 318 respiratory care professionals, over 200 building professionals, and 7 tribal communities. They also added over 50 new members to the Asthma Community Network Website. In addition, the EPA Administrator awarded the Indoor Air Quality Asthma Team, which included Mark Berry, the Agency’s Gold Medal Award, in recognition of their collective, outstanding public health efforts to improve the lives of people with asthma. Contact: Mark Berry, 214-665-3183.

Region 6 State/Tribal Pesticide Program Meeting, Dallas, TX: The Region 6 Pesticide Program held its State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) meeting in Dallas on October 12-13, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dallas. Agenda topics included State and Tribal summaries of their FY 2016 activities, a worker protection standard (WPS) discussion, certification and training (C&T) rule update, Zika update, school IPM update, pollinator protection activities in Region 6, and FY2017 priorities for Region 6. Contact: Gregory Weiler, 214-665-7564.

Superfund Division

Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Coordination, Dallas, TX: During the month of September 2016, EPA HQ transmitted a memo to each region requesting coordination with tribes on emergency notifications of accidental releases. Region 6 staff briefed tribal officials during the Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) conference call on existing procedures on notifications after an incident occurs. Staff provided each tribe with an application form and instructions on how each tribe can receive notifications directly from the National Response Center (NRC), a fact sheet on the provisions of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), a tribal preparedness fact sheet, and procedures for federal agencies to respond to an incident on tribal lands. Contact: Ronnie Crossland, 214-665-2721.

Water Quality Division

Quarterly Meetings of the US/Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program in El Paso, Texas: On February 14-16, 2017, 6WQ-AP staff members participated in a quarterly meeting with representatives from the North American Development Bank (NADB), Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), and the National Water Commission of Mexico (CONAGUA). The purpose of the meeting was to review the status of both US and Mexican projects which are either in development or construction. Specific meeting topics will include; agreement to expedite the procurement of all construction ready projects, and proceed with the bidding and construction of a new wastewater treatment plant for Sunland Park, New Mexico. The construction cost for the proposed Sunland Park project is estimated at approximately \$9.5 million. Contacts: Gilbert T. Tellez, 915-533-7273; and Salvador Gandara, 214-665-3194.